



# STORM WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADING PERMITS

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

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*Promoting the Wise Use of Land • Helping to Build Great Communities*

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In March of 2003, Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Final Rule went into effect. This requires permits for all construction projects that disturb one acre or more, or projects that are part of a common plan. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issues these permits via SMARTS. The New General Permit requirements went into effect **July 1, 2010**.

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- ✓ ***Does your project involve grading or site disturbance of one acre or more?***
- ✓ ***Is your project part of a common development?***



***If yes, you need to read this guide to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Storm Water Regulations.***

## **What is a SWPPP?**

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is a document that emphasizes the use of appropriately selected, correctly installed and maintained pollution reduction practices. These practices are also known as “BMPs” – Best Management Practices. SWPPPs have two purposes: to identify sources of sediment and other pollutants that affect storm water runoff, and to describe the implementation of BMPs intended to reduce or eliminate the pollutants.

## **How do I apply for a SWPPP?**

The following website will help you enroll in the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (General Permit /SWPPP):

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/) Click on **SMARTS database**

The owner/applicants should speak with the General Civil Engineer who prepared the plans to assist them in the enrollment process of a SWPPP. You can also call the SWRCB with questions at **(866) 563-3107** or the Local Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) at **(805) 549-3147**.

## **What is SMARTS?**

SMARTS has been developed to provide an online tool to assist dischargers in submitting their Notice of Intent (NOI), Notice of Termination, and reporting requirements, as well as viewing/printing Receipt Letters, monitoring the status of submitted documents, and viewing their application/renewal fee statements. The system will also allow the Local Regional Board and State Board staff to process and track the discharger-submitted documents.

## **How much does filing an NOI and a SWPPP cost?**

Costs depend on the acreage of disturbance. View the fee calculator at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/sw\\_feeschedules2008.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/sw_feeschedules2008.pdf). The fee is payable to SWRCB. In addition, if you are eligible for the Rainfall Erosivity waiver, then it will be a flat fee of \$200.00

## **What happens if I don't get a SWPPP permit?**

Landowners that do not comply with the NPDES Construction General Permit requirements may be subject to substantial fines. The Regional Water Board fines can be up to \$10,000.00 per day or more depending on violation.

## **How does this relate to the County's permit process?**

The SMARTS enrollment for a SWPPP is a separate process regulated and administered at the State level & Local Regional Board. The County Department of Planning and Building is responsible for public education and outreach and for checking that the State requirements have been satisfied prior to issuing building permits. The SWPPP requirements will show up on your conditions of approval for a Land Use Permit or a Building/Grading Permit.

## **What is meant by a common plan?**

The intent of the common plan is avoid an applicant from piecemealing a project. In other words, dissecting a project into smaller projects to avoid this requirement is not allowed. Your option is to reduce the area of disturbance or obtain a SWPPP.

## Storm Water Resources

- To enrollment in the SMARTS database for a SWPPP go to:  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater)  
Click on SMARTS database
- or go to:  
<https://smarts.waterboards.ca.gov/smarts/faces/SwSmartsLogin.jsp>

For assistance with SMARTS, please contact State Water Board Staff at 1-866-563-3107, Monday thru Friday 8:00AM - 5:00PM or email [smarts@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:smarts@waterboards.ca.gov).

## Contacts

### ***San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department***

Elizabeth Szwabowski, Building 781-5725, [eszwabow@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:eszwabow@co.slo.ca.us)  
Murry Wilson, Planning 788-2352, [mwilson@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:mwilson@co.slo.ca.us)

### ***Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Region)***

Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/>  
895 Aero Vista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401  
Phone (805) 549-3147 • FAX (805) 543-0397

- **Northern SLO Co:** Hector Hernandez (805-542-4641) [hhernandez@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:hhernandez@waterboards.ca.gov)
- **Southern & Coastal SLO County:** Tamara Presser (805-549-3334) [tpresser@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:tpresser@waterboards.ca.gov)
- **Northern Santa Barbara County (Santa Maria - Solvang):** David Innis (805-549-3150) [dbinnis@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dbinnis@waterboards.ca.gov)

### ***State Water Resources Control Board***

Internet Address: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 341-5250 • FAX (916) 341-5252

### ***SMARTS Registration***

Internet Address: <https://smarts.waterboards.ca.gov/smarts/faces/SwSmartsLogin.jsp>  
P.O. Box 1977  
Sacramento, CA 95812

## Internet Resources

**USEPA** - <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater>

**SWRCB** - [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml)

**CalTrans** - <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/stormwater1.htm>